THE BARLOW
RC HIGH SCHOOL
SERVE · PRAY · ACHIEVE · RESPECT

Rise up,
take courage,
and do it.

The Barlow RC High School
Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury
Manchester M20 6BX

Headteacher: Claire Wallace BA (Hons) NPQH
0161 445 8053
admin@thebarlowrchigh.co.uk
www.thebarlowrchigh.co.uk

5th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to inform you of updated statutory guidance from September 2026, from the Department for Education, regarding school uniform. This updated guidance applies to all schools in England. It is designed to ensure that school uniform policies are fair, reasonable and offer the best value for families.

Uniform from September 2026

Items	Compulsory	Branded
The Barlow blazer with the school crest.	Yes, for Y7-10	Yes
The Barlow maroon V-neck jumper	No, optional for Y7-10	Yes
The Barlow black jumper with the school crest (Year 11 only).	Yes, for Y11	Yes
A white shirt or blouse with a stiff collar. ***This must be tucked in, with the top button fastened.***	Yes	No
A school tie. This must be a clip-on tie. ***Non-clip-on ties are not permitted.***	Yes	Yes
Either black tailored trousers or a short black pleated skirt or skater skirt, which is no more than two inches above the knee. If required, as a reasonable adjustment for either sensory reasons, religious grounds or cultural differences, pupils can choose to wear a full-length black skirt that must be ankle-length and free-flowing. ***Black jeans, corduroy trousers, leggings and flared trousers are not permitted. Straight, tight-fitting skirts, such as tube skirts or pencil skirts, are also not permitted.***	Yes	No
Plain black shoes. The shoes must be of leather or leather-look material. ***Trainers and boots are not acceptable, nor is canvas footwear. Shoes should not have a brand logo visible.***	Yes	No
Pupils wearing a permitted short school skirt must wear opaque black tights (half term 1-5).	Yes	No
Pupils wearing permitted school trousers must wear plain black socks. ***Frills and bows are not permitted.***	Yes	No

In half term 6, pupils wearing skirts are permitted to wear plain black knee-length socks. ***Frills and bows are not permitted.***	No, optional in half term 6	No
In half term 6, pupils are permitted to wear knee-length black tailored shorts.	No, optional in half term 6	No
PE Kit		
Items	**Compulsory**	**Branded**
A black polo t-shirt with the school crest.	Yes	Yes
One of the following: black shorts, a black skort, black jogging bottoms or black leggings, dependent on pupil choice – all these options must have the school crest on them.	Yes	Yes
White or black socks.	Yes	No
Trainers.	Yes	No
Football shin guards and black football socks as required - generic alternatives are acceptable, where safe.	Yes	No
A black sweatshirt with the school crest.	No	Yes
A maroon and black rugby jersey for outdoor use only.	No	Yes

Uniform Suppliers

To support parents/carers, branded items for The Barlow's school uniform can be purchased from a range of suppliers in the local area. These suppliers are:

- Debonair School Wear - 2B Hale Top, Civic Centre, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M22 5RN.
- Little Angels - 490 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 9AS.
- MCS Stores - 220 Fog Lane, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 6EL.
- Triple S Uniform - 102 Heaton Moor Road, Stockport, SK4 4NZ.

All other non-branded school items can be bought from any other high-street retailer, including any supermarket chain.

The school has available various pieces of pre-loved uniform that can be supplied to parents/carers for their children if required. Parents/carers should contact the school office for more information regarding this.

For support and advice from Manchester City Council regarding purchasing school uniform, please visit their Help for Families and Children page at https://www.manchester.gov.uk/people-and-communities/help-with-the-cost-of-living-crisis/stay-connected-and-informed/help-with-school-uniform-costs.

As parents/carers will be aware, at The Barlow, we have high expectations of pupils in terms of their uniform and appearance. Please see some important key reminders below.

Jewellery and Make-up

For reasons of health and safety we do not allow pupils to wear jewellery in school, other than a watch. No Smart Watches are allowed. Pupils are not allowed to wear piercings in their ears, nose or mouth. Pupils should not be wearing retainers to keep piercings from healing up under any circumstances.

Make-up is not permitted to be worn in school. Acrylic, gel, shellac and false nails are not allowed in school, neither is the wearing of nail varnish of any colour, including French polish. Nails must be kept to a sensible length. Eyelash enhancements and fake tan are not permitted in school. Pimple patches are not permitted unless clear.

Hair

We recognise that there will be a variety of hairstyles worn by pupils, however, haircuts that are deemed as extreme such as haircuts where patterns, stripes or letters have been cut into a pupil's hair or hair that is dyed in bright or unnatural colours are not permitted in school. This is because they are not in-keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform and prevent ensuring uniformity, acting as a distraction from the focus of our educational purpose. Hair must be one colour, and the colour must be natural.

Afro hairstyles, braids, locks, twists, cornrows, plaits, skin fades are allowed where these are being worn on racial or religious grounds. Braids should be natural in colour - they should be one colour which is as close as possible to a pupil's natural hair colour or two colours of very similar shading, which are also as close as possible to a pupil's natural hair colour.

Pupils are not required to tie long hair back unless it is deemed necessary for health and safety reasons, for example, when pupils are participating in a practical, science or sports activity. If instructed to tie their hair back in such instances, pupils must comply.

Headwear

Pupils are permitted to wear head coverings, including religious-based head coverings and African heritage head wraps but these must be either black or maroon in colour. **Pupils are allowed to wear bows, scrunchies or headbands in their hair; these must be either black or maroon in colour.**

Outdoor Garments

Pupils are not allowed to wear hoodies, track suit tops, sports jackets, windbreakers, denim or leather jackets or body warmers on school site. Outdoor coats must be plain and a dark colour. Pupils are not permitted to wear light-coloured coats. **Outdoor garments must not be worn in the school building.**

If you have any questions regarding the changes to the Uniform Policy, then please contact your child's Director of Key Stage in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

RM Seddon

Mrs R Seddon
Assistant Headteacher Inclusion